

Top Two Primary Advisory 03: Candidate Filing May 30, 2008

As we head into Candidate Filing Week, here are some important points to keep in mind:

- For over-the-counter declarations, be sure to use the new Declaration of Candidacy form (which includes party preference information for partisan offices.) If you receive a filing on an old form through the mail, accept the filing; when you publish your list of candidates who have filed, and create your ballots, use the political party information from the form as the candidate's party preference information. If you have questions about how the party preference should be displayed, please contact our office.
- Certain items are prohibited on the Declaration of Candidacy form in regards to nicknames and party preference.
 - The candidate may use a nickname per RCW 29A.24.060, however the candidate cannot:
 - Use a nickname that denotes present or past occupation, including military rank;
 - Use a nickname that denotes the candidate's position on issues or political affiliation;
 - Use a nickname designed intentionally to mislead voters.
 - As stated in WAC 434-215-120(4), party preference may not:
 - Include any obscene language
 - Imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by a political party or that a political party approves of or associates with that candidate. **For example**, if a candidate writes "GOP Incumbent," it implies that the candidate is a perennial candidate of the Republican Party, which would not be allowed under this WAC.

If such filings are received, you may petition the Superior Court for determination that the party preference should be edited, rejected, or replaced with "States No Party Preference." Please also contact our office in this case.
- Over-the-counter filing is an opportunity to educate the candidate about how party preference information will appear on the ballot. You may give a candidate the opportunity to correct his or her preference before filing. For candidates who file online, The Secretary of State's Office will be contacting candidates whose preference is questionable and allowing corrections through June 12.
- For all voids in candidacy and any vacancies occurring from June 3rd through August 18th, offices will appear on the General Election Ballot only. In such cases, the County Auditor may hold the special filing period at any time.

- For offices whose filings may be accepted by either the Secretary of State or the county, please notify us of:
 - Filings received for these offices during the regular filing period via the detailed instructions in the attachment.
 - Withdrawals in these offices by the close of business Thursday, June 12th.
 - Special three day filing periods for voids or vacancies in any of these offices so we can have online filing available concurrently.
 - Your final lot draw order for any Legislative, Court of Appeals, and Superior Court positions entirely within your county immediately after conducting your lot draw.
 - Filings accepted during your special filing period.

In turn, our office will communicate all of the above to the applicable counties.

Please find attached, “County Recording Procedures” for specifics about communicating with our office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (360) 902-4180.